

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5655

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: SA CARNEIRO AND THE FUTURE OF THE PPD

SUMMARY: FORMER PPD SECRETARY GENERAL SA CARNEIRO IN PRESS
CONFERENCE SEPT 24 ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO RESUME CONTROL
OF PARTY WHEN ITS NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETS SEPT 27-28. SA CARNEIRO
ATTACKED ROLE OF MILITARY IN GOVERNMENT AND DEFENDED SOCIAL
DEMOCRACY AS LEGITIMATE CONCEPT FOR PORTUGAL. HIS REMARKS
INDICATE THAT PPD UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP WILL FORMALLY ABANDON
EFFORT INITIATED BY INTERIM SECRETARY GENERAL GUERREIRO TO REACH
RAPPROCHEMENT WITH LEFT. SA CARNEIRO'S ACTIONS IN THE PAST
AND HIS RECENT STATEMENTS LEAD US TO QUESTION HIS POLITICAL
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JUDGMENT AND LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY.

1. FORMER PPD SECRETARY GENERAL FRANCISCO SA CARNEIRO, IN SEPT 24 PRESS CONFERENCE IN LISBON, CONFIRMED WIDESPREAD SPECULATION THAT HE WOULD REASSUME CONTROL OF THE PARTY. HIGHLIGHTS OF SA CARNEIRO'S REMARKS FOLLOW:

--HE PLANS TO RESUME CONTROL OF PARTY AT SEPT 27-28 MEETING OF PPD NATIONAL COUNCIL. HIS HEALTH IS FULLY RESTORED AND THE PARTY LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN INFORMED OF HIS INTENTIONS.

--TIME HAS COME FOR A NATIONAL DEBATE ON ROLE OF THE MILITARY IN POLITICS. RECENT EVENTS AND PORTUGUESE HISTORY HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE DANGERS OF MILITARY RULE. AFM HAS NEITHER THE LEGITIMACY NOR THE COMPETENCE TO RULE PORTUGAL. MILITARY MEN WHO WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN POLITICS SHOULD LEAVE THE MILITARY: CIVILIANS WHO WANT TO "DEFEND" PORTUGAL WITH THE USE OF A GUN SHOULD ENLIST IN THE ARMY.

--SOCIAL DEMOCRACY, AS A CONCEPT EMBRACED BY SECOND-LARGEST PARTY IN PORTUGAL, SHOULD BE ACCORDED THE RESPECT AND CONSIDERATION IT MERITS. AS THINGS STAND NOW, "IN PORTUGAL ONE CANNOT BE OFFICIALLY ANTI-COMMUNIST, BUT IT WOULD APPEAR THAT ONE CAN AND SHOULD BE OFFICIALLY ANTI-SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC." SPECIFIC AND CONTINUED CONDEMNATION OF SOCIAL-DEMOCRACY BY THE PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER, OR OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS WOULD BE CLEAR INDICATION OF PARTISANSHIP, PARTIALITY AND INDIFFERENCE TO THE ELECTION RESULTS. SUCH ACTIONS WOULD BETRAY PLURALISTIC VALUES OF PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION.

--SIXTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT IS NOT A COALITION GOVERNMENT. OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENT ARE SERVING AS INDIVIDUALS; PARTIES PER SE ARE NOT REPRESENTED.

--PORTUGAL HAS FAILED TO LIVE UP TO ITS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROTECTING THE LIVES AND WELL-BEING OF POPULATIONS OF ANGOLA AND TIMOR. AN INQUIRY SHOULD BE CONDUCTED INTO GOVERNMENTAL NEGLIGENCE.

2. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM SA CARNEIRO'S COMMENTS TO PRESS, PPD UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP WOULD ABANDON EFFORT INITIATED BY INTERIM SECRETARY GENERAL EMIDIO GUERREIRO TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH LEFT--AND SPECIFICALLY WITH PS --BY DEEMPHASIZING PPD LINKS TO SOCIAL DEMOCRACY. HIS OUTSPOKEN CRITICISM OF MILITARY AND THE MILITARY IN POLITICS WILL NOT IMPROVE HIS ALREADY LOW STANDING WITHIN THE AFM.

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3. A MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATIVE WING OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY, WHO IS AN ACUTE OBSERVER OF THE POLITICAL SCENE, COMMENTED TO THE DCM THAT SA CARNEIRO SEES THE COUNTRY MOVING RIGHT--EITHER PEACEFULLY OR THROUGH VIOLENCE. SA CARNEIRO WANTS TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF AS THE MOST IMPORTANT LEADER OF THE RESPECTABLE RIGHT. HE HOPES TO BE ABLE TO PICK UP ELEMENTS OF THE PS AND PERHAPS ABSORB MUCH OF THE CDS.

4. THE SAME SOCIALIST OBSERVER NOTED THAT SOARES AND THE SOCIALISTS FIND THIS A BAD TIME FOR THE PD AND PPD TO START MOVING APART. ALTHOUGH SOARES WOULD ACCEPT SUCH A RELIAGNMENT IN THE FUTURE, HE HAS JUST COME THROUGH A DIFFICULT STRUGGLE WITH THE COMMUNISTS IN WHICH, IN HIS WORDS, THE SOCIALIST PARTY WON A BATTLE BUT NOT THE WAR. HE NEEDS PPD SUPPORT AND COOPERATION.

5. IN OUR JUDGMENT, SA CARNEIRO, A FIGURE WHO INSPIRES GREAT LOYALTY AMONG HIS FOLLOWERS, HAS NOT DEMONSTRATED THE QUALITY OF LEADERSHIP AND POLITICAL ACUMEN THAT THE ELECTORAL WEIGHT OF THE PPD DEMANDS. SA CARNEIRO MADE SOME BAD ERROS IN THE PAST--SUCH AS SUPPORTING SPINOLA'S POWER PLAY DURING THE PALMA CARLOS GOVERNMENT AND LETTING THE PATY DRIFT DURING HIS ILLNESS BEFORE RELINQUISHING HIS LEADERSHIP. HE CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH DUBIOUS ELEMENTS ON THE FAR RIGHT.

6. HOPEFULLY, SA CARNEIRO, NOW THAT HE HAS RETURNED TO POGTUGAL. WILL HAVE A GREATER GRASP OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION. BUT, AT PRESENT, HIS TACTICS ARE SERVING TO DIVIDE THE ANTI-COMMUNIST FORCES IN PORTUGAL. I INTEND TO TAKE THIS UP WITH HIM AT AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY.
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